

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCSE-00 CAB-09 SCA-01 L-03 H-03

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 COME-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /074 W

----- 012614

R 211737Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8491

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

AMCONSUL ANTWERP

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 4784

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ETRN, CASC, BE

SUBJ: CIVAIR: STRANDEES

REF: BRUSSELS 4650

1. SUMMARY: STRANDEE PROBLEM POSED BY CANCELLATION OF WEEKLY FLIGHT OSTENDE-LOS ANGELES SIGNIFICANTLY EASED PAST WEEKEND AS KNOWLEDGE OF CANCELLATION APPEARS TO HAVE PERMEATED AMERICAN TOURIST CIRCLES. HOWEVER WEEKEND AUGUST 19 BROUGHT NEW PROBLEM AS SECOND IN SERIES BRUSSELS-DETROIT FLIGHTS BY SAME BELGIAN CARRIER POMAIR CANCELLED. END SUMMARY.

2. PROBLEM POSED BY BELGIAN CHARTER CARRIER POMAIR'S CANCELLATION OF WEEKLY SATURDAY FLIGHT TO LOS ANGELES (REFTEL) DIMINISHED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER LAST WEEK. KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS SERIES OF FLIGHTS CANCELLED APPEARS TO HAVE REACHED LARGE NUMBER POTENTIAL PASSENGERS SINCE ONLY HANDFUL ARRIVED OSTENDE OVER WEEKEND. NORMAL CONSULAR SERVICES PROVIDED.

3. POMAIR CONTINUING TO PROVIDE ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR "BONA FIDE" TRAVELERS, I.E. THOSE WHO PRESENT VALID POMAIR RETURN TICKETS AS OPPOSED THOSE WHO PRESENT ONLY "VOUCHERS" ISSUED BY A  
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TRAVEL AGENT.

4. HOWEVER, EASING OF LA BOUND STRANDEES PROBLEM COINCIDED WITH NEW GROUP OF POTENTIAL STRANDEES DESTINED TO RETURN TO DETROIT AREA. POMAIR HAD CONTRACTED FOR SERIES OF FLIGHTS DETROIT-BRUSSELS-DETROIT WITH RETURN FLIGHTS SCHEDULED AUGUST 15, 19, 21, 22, 31. CONTRACTOR IS CANADA CHARTERS, TORONTO. POMAIR FLEW ON AUGUST 15 BUT REPORTED PAYMENT DELAYS RESULTED IN CANCELLATION AUGUST 19 FLIGHT WITH RESULTANT STRANDEE PROBLEM. POMAIR-CANADA CHARTERS HAVE APPARENTLY SETTLED FINANCIAL PROBLEM AND FLIGHT SCHEDULED DEPART 1830 HOURS AUGUST 21 WILL TAKE AUGUST 19 STRANDEES, PLUS MIXED BAG AUGUST 21-22 PASSENGERS. POMAIR HAS TENTATIVELY AGREED FLY TO DETROIT ON AUGUST 25, 28, 31 IF SUFFICIENT PASSENGERS SHOW UP. IF LESS THAN FULL PLANE LOADS APPEAR, POMAIR WILL MAKE ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING POSSIBLE REQUEST TO PLACE THEM ON SATURDAY EVENING BRUSSELS-FREEPORT, BAHAMAS FLIGHTS FOR OFFLOADING IN BANGOR, MAINE (IN THIS EVENTUALITY, POMAIR WILL APPLY FOR APPROPRIATE CAB PERMISSION). CROWLEY

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